

EXCITER

April 2006

Issue No. 421

RARSFest

Sunday

April 23, 2006



Whats Goin' On

Special points of interest:

- *The RARS Nightly Net meets everyday on 146.64 at 8:00 PM*
- *There is the Weekly Edition of the RARS Tech & Traders Net each Saturday at 8:30, or right after the RARS Nightly Net.*
- *RARS meets for dinner at the Golden Corral on Glenwood Ave 6:30 on the 2nd. Tuesday each month.*

Hopefully, this will be the last lead column I write for the Exciter. I am looking forward to the return of the Presidents Corner.

Until then, I thought I'd touch base with some RARS happenings during the next few months. We are entering into a season of lots of activities.

First, you will find an article on RARSFest. Hank needs all of our support for tis major event. His article appears below.

Ah then there's Field day, the annual test of our organizational skills, not to mention hours of contest style operation, lots of great companionship, the sense of being a part of the local nature scene. What

more could you ask for? We will have a presentation on field day at the April meeting. Make your plans now for the last weekend in June.

Public service, the season for walks and bike rides is upon us. We will need a director of public service soon since Dick, KD4ISC has been filling in on a temporary basis.

Of course, we still need some assistance on the Exciter. My thanks to those of you who have responded. I had a slight email crash last month, so if I missed responding, chances are I missed your reply. Please try once again, we need you.

Thanks to all of you who showed up for the March mara-

thon meeting. We had lots of visitors and picked up three new members. Welcome all of you and please don't be shy, we can use your input and help. Let us know what you would like to do.

Well, enough for now. Please give some real thought to being an active RARS participant. Let me know what you think.
73, W8HYD

The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the monthly newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It is available in both printed and electronic form. The printed version is mailed to members just before each club meeting. The electronic form, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, is e-mailed about a week earlier.

We solicit both articles and advertising. The deadline for submissions is first Friday of the month or Friday after the monthly meeting. Contact the Editor.

The views contained in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors, and are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, we incorporated a new RARS, and obtained 501(c)(3) Non-Profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friend-ship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18.00 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5.00 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12.00 per year. Dues for non-licensed Associate members are \$9.00 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer, or the RARS web site (www.rars.org).

EXCITER EDITOR:



OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:	Dick Bitner W8HYD 919-872-6802 ncsol@bellsouth.net
VICE-PRESIDENT	Selene Montgomery 919-577-1254 kg4rmt@earthlink.net
SECRETARY:	Dick Orander KD4ISC 919-469-5322 kd4isc@arrl.net
TREASURER:	Greg Seamster KE4PAX 919-859-0029 ke4pax@arrl.net

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh:
145.13 (82.5 PL)
146.64
444.525 (82.5 PL)

WEB SITE www.rars.org



RARSFest - Sunday, April 23, 2006

- Volunteers are needed
- Tickets can be ordered on-line at www.rars.org

RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MEETINGS

Date: *First Tuesday of each Month*

Location: *Forest Hills Baptist Church, at Dixie Trail and Clark Avenue, in Raleigh*

Time: *7:30pm. Folks start showing up a bit before 7 to chat, brag and eat donuts.*

VE Testing: The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August and November RARS meetings, at the RARSfest in April, the Cary Swapfest in July and the JARSfest in November, and following RARS license classes. Please bring a photo ID, the original and a copy of your current license, plus any CSCEs you have for credit. Please refer to www.rars.org for more information.

The Exciter goes to the printer the first Monday after the general meeting. Electronic mailing is the same week. Printing and mailing may vary.

TECHNICAL & TRADERS NET– Saturday evenings on 146.64 after the 8:00pm RARS net

RARS DUES

You can pay RARS dues online at the RARS website: www.rars.org, or send a check to
Greg Seamster, KE4PAX
1405 Leanne Ct.
Raleigh, NC 27606

Announcements

NEXT RARS MEETING:

Tuesday, April 4, 2006 7:30 pm

Update on RARSFest 2006, and Field Day DVD Presentation

NETS

VOIP Hurricane net held Saturday 7:00pm on 440 Carolina linking system. http://www.carolina440.net/repeaters_on_link.htm

NC VOIP for North Carolina also held on the 440 Carolina linking system on Sunday 7:00pm.

NEWS HOUR

For those interested, the most recent 4 editions of the RARS News Hour audio is now available on line at http://www.wa4bpj.com/Ham_Radio/RARS/RARS_News_Hour/RARS_News_Hour.htm

Each week, I'll post the current news hour file and keep the most recent four. Each file is about 8 MB and the playing time is approximately 45 minutes.
73, Mike , WA4BPJ

RARS DINNER

Come join us on the **2nd** Tuesday of each month. We are currently meeting at the Golden Corral, 6129 Glenwood Avenue. People start arriving around 6:30pm., and things usually wind down by 8pm or so. You can come whenever it's convenient for you. This gathering is open to anyone, RARS and non-RARS members, adults and children alike. Hope to see you there.

New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members to RARS. Thank you for considering us for your amateur radio club.

WD8MZR	Jim
KI4NQX	Kurt
No License	Diana McHugh
KI4KUK	Dan
W0MDS	Mike
KE4YHR	Jack
AF0AA	LOS

HAMFEST CALENDAR

April 2	Kinston, NC
April 15	Morganton, NC
April 23	RALEIGH, NC
May 13*	Eden, NC
May 20	Williamston, NC
May 19-21	Dayton, OH
May 20	Greenville, NC
May 27*	Durham, NC
June 10*	Winston-Salem
June 24-25	FIELD DAY
July 1	Salisbury, NC
July 15	Cary, NC

Courtesy of the SERA Repeater Journal

*Date is not confirmed



Hey! Sign Up Now!
Your Club needs you!

RARSFest 2006 News

The 34th annual RARSFest will be take place on Sunday April 23rd, 2006 at the Jim Graham Building – but I'm sure you already know that - it's the same place as every year.

So let me talk about what's NEW for the 34th RARSFest. RARS is an ARRL Special Service Club. The first tenet of a Special Service Club is New Ham Development and Training. The frequent license classes are one way we fulfill that responsibility. We are trying to add RARSFest activities that further

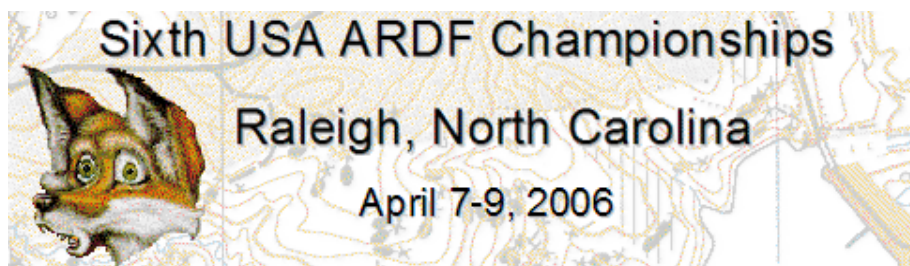
support that responsibility. We have arranged for Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, ARRL Club Mentor/Program director to be our guest speaker this year. Norm will discuss such topics as setting up a station, building a simple antenna, getting on the air, etc. We are also planning some "hands on" activities such as soldering, and operating a station. Some other activities are still being discussed so check the web site often as the date gets closer.

We are also going to do

some fox hunting this year at RARSFest. Charles E. Scharlau, NZ0I, will help us with this activity. Charles is currently the organizer of the USA ARDF Championships to be held at Umstead State Park on April 7-9 and invites any RARS members to participate.

RARSFest needs YOU !

73, K4HM



Charles also is in need of some help with this event. For more information check out the web site at:

<http://home.earthlink.net/~nadia1/> - which is also a good reference to use when preparing for the fox hunt at RARSFest

We all need to spread the word about RARSFest. Whenever you check into a net, work a station on HF, visit an electronics store, or even just rag-chew on the repeaters, work RARSFest into the conversation. Be proud of it – we are one of the largest hamfests in this part of the county.

And as always, there is plenty of work to be done on the weekend of the fest. Setup starts on Friday and continues through Saturday until everyone gets a chance to relax a bit and enjoy Mary Jo Littlewood's great social-supper. Then there is plenty of opportunity to help out on Sunday. If we all pitch in a few hours there will be plenty of time for everyone to enjoy the fest and still get the work done. Please visit <http://rars.org/hamfest/helpwanted.html> to volunteer a few hours of your time. We will have a worker party/picnic again this year for all of those who volunteer.

NEW FEATURES THIS YEAR

Special Event Station

Fox Hunt

New Ham Forum

I have my license, now what?

Guest Speaker—**Norm Fusaro - W3IZ**

ARRL HQ - Affiliated Clubs Mentor Program Manager

Presentation and discussion on setting up a station, equipment, and operations.

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February 2006 Net Reports

RARS Two Meter Traffic

Ragchew Net:
Checkins: 384
Traffic: 26/22
Minutes: 722
Sessions: 28

Special Interest Nets:

Checkins: 59
Minutes: 363
Sessions: 8



Birthdays

Roger	KB4FEU	4/2
Bob	W4TTX	4/3
Henry	WB2AGA	4/8
Ginger	KD4OKP	4/8
Larry Carringer		4/9
Dennis	NC4DK	4/10
Jim	KB4BZ	4/12
Dick	KB1HIW	4/17
John	KD4OLP	4/17
Ken	N4TCP	4/17
John	W4WWD	4/20
Joe	WA2UZO	4/22
Neal	N4HAF	4/23
Dave	KG4OPZ	4/24
Jeffrey	KG4NUN	4/25
Don	WA4AVU	4/26
Steve	KB4HDQ	4/29

Equipment Donation to RARS

RARS is a 501c3 organization and donations made to RARS are tax deductible.

RARS recently received an equipment donation that will be sold and the proceeds added to the general fund. The equipment will be available for purchase at RARSFest, but we would like to offer the equipment to RARS members prior to RARSFest. If you are interested in the following items contact Greg Seamster at ke4pax@arrl.org, or 919-795-8388.

17' Monitor
New HP Officejet 350 Copier, Fax, Printer
Protel Payphone
Rack mounted CPU case with power supply
HP LJ5L Laser Printer
Western Digital Hard Drive
Linksys WIFI Base and PCMCIA Card
Blackberry RIM
Windows 98 Software
3com Palm Pilot
HP Pocket PC H5450
HP Jornada F1260A
Dell Axium x5 (miscellaneous accessories)

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AWARDS, AWARDS, and most of all "THANK YOU!"

Awards were presented at the March membership meeting.

Presenter: John Covington, W4CC, ARRL NC Section Manager:

W4FAL, N4TAB, KN4AQ for work on the Raleigh BPL Test

Andy Peterson, NI4S - RARS President 2004 thru 2005

Dick Bitner, W8HYD – RARS Vice President 2004 thru 2005

Presenter: Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, ARRL Roanoke Div. Assistant Director:

John Covington, W4CC as retiring Divisional Director

Gary Pearce, KN4AQ for his service as Editor SERA Journal

Presenter: Dick Bitner, W8HYD, RARS President Certificates:

Greg Seamster, KE4PAX – RARS Club & RARSFest Treasurer for several years

Jon Kerfoot, KG4ZVT - RARS Webmaster - 2005

Denyse Walter, K4DAW – RARS Exciter Editor 2003 – 2005, RARS Membership Chairperson and EC, Skywarn Program

Jim Walter, K4FIJ – RARS At Large Director 2004 –2005 and RARSFest Admissions Chairman

Selene Montgomery, KG4RMT – RARS At Large Director 2004 - 2005

Tim Nicholson, W4NOT – RARS Webmaster - 2004

Cliff Broughton, AG4XR – RARS Chief Auctioneer several years

Steve Jenkins, KA8HXX – A Driving force for Ham Radio Education in Wake County Schools

Randy Bittle, KE4PNT – RARS and Early Birds Net Control Station

Bernard Blackmon, W4BRB – RARSFest Setup Chief for many years

Tom Brown, N4TAB – Public Service Event Coordinator and Emergency Coordinator for Wake County

John Guerriero, KG4HDT – Emergency Coordinator, NC Emergency Management/State EOC

Virginia Enzor, NC4VA – Emergency Coordinator for the Central Carolina Skywarn Program

David Crawford, KF4VXJ – Ass't EC, Wake County EOC

Mark Gibson, N4MQU – Ass't EC, Wake County EOC

Ken Slough, K7UGT – Ass't EC, Wake County EOC

Al Nickle, KE4IHX – Active in RARS Public Service & Red Cross Station Participant from Roxboro, NC

Ken Edwards, N4ZBB – Originator of the RTP Weekly Ham Luncheon

Dave Thomas, K4SAN – RARS RARSFest Clean up Chief several years

Jay Langley, N5UTY – Assisting RARS with Exciter and RARSFest Printing and Distribution for several years

Mary Holtschneider, KG4OQA – RARS Net Manager for several years

Bob Conder, K4RLC – Ass't EC, Red Cross Katrina Volunteer and Program Presenter

Ron Ford, W4RJF – Coordinating the 2005 Autism Ribbon Run

Bruce Arnold, N8UTY – Coordinating the 2005 MS 150 Bike Event

A special thank you to all Public Service Volunteers, RARS NCS, and RARS VE Team Members.

THE 2006 HAMFEST SOCIAL IS APRIL 22

Heah, Gang....let's get ready for the 2006 Hamfest Social! The date is the evening of April 22. This event really has become an important aspect of our RARSFest weekend. We so often hear guests who have been at previous gatherings speak of how they have looked forward to the good food, fun, and fellowship they associate with our Hamfest Social. We served more than 230 guests and RARS members during our 2005 Social. I think we can anticipate a similar number this year.

Help will be needed to decorate the meeting room, to serve food as our guests go through one of two buffet lines, and to clean up following the meal. Oh yes....**and as always we definitely need all** of you good cooks to prepare covered dishes of vegetables, salads, casseroles, and desserts. So many of you have been so generous with your time and culinary dishes through the years. I have faith that you will continue to contribute in some way, just as you have in the past. RARS will furnish pork barbecue and fried chicken as well as beverages for the meal.

Food items should be brought to the meeting room in the Jim Graham building on the grounds of the NC State Fairgrounds by 6:15 p.m. on the evening of April 22. If you need to bring items earlier, please pack them on ice if they require refrigeration. We do not have the capability at the site to refrigerate food.

Please let me know if you can help with decorating the morning of April 22 and/or with serving and cleaning up that evening. Decorating the room for the Social is from 10:00-11:30 a.m. and the work serving and cleaning up from the Social is from 6:00-8:30 p.m.

I can be reached at 872-6555 if you have questions or want to let me know the help you can give decorating, preparing an item of food, serving our guests, or cleaning up....great if you can help in more ways than one!! please leave me a message if I am not at home when you call.

Again, my sincere thanks for the help you will give to make hamfest vendors and other guests feel welcome to Raleigh and to the 34th RARSFest.

Mary Jo Littlewood, **K4MJL**

Hamfest Social Chairman

What's Public Service All About?

The Purpose of RARS Public Service is to provide opportunities for Amateur Radio Operators to contribute their skills and equipment in support of community service organizations across the RTP area. We do this as our way of saying "Thanks!" for use of the Amateur Radio spectrum provided to us by the Federal Government.

Next Scheduled Public Service Event

2006 MS Walk

Saturday, April 1, 2006

Hams are needed to provide communications support for this event.

Time - 8:30am - 1:00pm

Location - RTP Imperial Center.

Equipment needed: 2 meter HT and earphone.

This is a fun outdoor event. Great for your first try at public service.

Want to coordinate this event? Want to volunteer?

Contact Dick KD4ISC at kd4isc@arrl.net

Minutes of the RARS Board of Directors Meeting for November 2005

The Board of Directors meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on November 15, 2005 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

Attendance: Board – Andy Peterson, NI4S, Dick Bitner, W8HYD, Hank Montgomery, K4HM, Selene Montgomery, KG4RMT, Denyse Walter, K4DAW, Jim Walter, K4FIJ, Jon Kerfoot, KG4ZVT, Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, Bernard Blackmon, W4BRB, Greg Seamster, KE4PAX, Mary Holtschneider, KG4OQA, Gary Pearce, KN4AQ and Dick Orander, KD4ISC. Others – Mary Jo Littlewood, K4MJL.

President Andy Peterson, NI4S, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

On a motion from Chuck K4HF and second by Greg KE4PAX, the October Board meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Officers' Reports

Greg KE4PAX provided the Treasurer's report.

- There are currently 252 RARS members.
- Recent expenditures include initial RARSfest expenses, a donation made to Hospice in memory of John Swain, W4JPS, a contribution to the Spectrum Defense Fund and the sponsorship of the ARRL HF contest plaques.
- The club's taxes were also sent in on November 1.

Dick W8HYD provided the Vice President's report.

- There are a couple of locations for classes being solidified for next year. The loose ends still need to be tied up.
- The December general meeting program will be the Christmas party. Members will be asked to bring food to the meeting. The Encore singers will be back again for entertainment. The meeting will be held upstairs and will start at 7 pm.

Committee Reports

Hamfest – Hank K4HM reported a budget related meeting was held in October. Cuts have been made for next year's hamfest due to the significant increase in costs at the fairgrounds location. Radios will not be offered as hamfest prizes. Instead, cash will be offered as the various hamfest hourly and grand prizes. Advertising has been cut to one week and the table and chairs order will be delayed in order to cut waste. Hank is following up on having the hamfest flyers printed by a company offering a significantly lower price. The club's website has been updated with the 2006 RARSfest information. We continue to look for alternate locations to be used for future fests. The next committee meeting will be held on January 23 at the home of Charlie Swindell, WB4DCM.

At-large – Selene KG4RMT advised the collection for the ARRL Toy drive is approaching \$500. She will be taking the collection box to the JARSfest. The funds will be mailed to the ARRL on the 22nd.

Gary KN4AQ reported that ham radio classes have started at Powell elementary. Things are off to a good start. There has also been talk of organizing a school contact with the International Space Station.

New Business

Mike Hollingsworth has offered to donate various electronic equipment to the club. Greg KE4PAX has made contact with Mike and expressed our interest in the donation. Discussion followed on the use and availability to members of the equipment as well as storage and evaluation of the goods. Dick W8HYD made a motion for Greg KE4PAX to form a committee to explore the acquisition of this equipment and agree to pay the reasonable expenses of receiving and storing it. A second was provided by Hank K4HM. Discussion followed on the timeline of dealing with this donation as well as a presentation to the membership concerning this equipment. Greg advised the equipment would be received over time (i.e. not a one time delivery). The motion was then amended to include a provision authorizing Greg to pay for 3 months of storage for the acquired equipment. Additional discussion followed. The final understanding of the motion was to allow Greg KE4PAX to chair an ad hoc committee for the acquisition and disposal of donated equipment (from Mike Hollingsworth) and the club will cover all reasonable expenses incurred not to exceed \$250 until the project and any additional costs are officially presented to the membership. Additional discussion followed. The vote was taken and carried in favor of the motion.

Denyse K4DAW presented a case she recently purchased for storage of membership supplies and requested reimbursement for its cost of \$37.93. The case will be paid for from the membership committee's budget.

The group agreed to cancel the December meeting of the Board due to our busy schedules during the holiday season.

Minutes of the RARS Board of Directors Meeting for November 2005 (continued)

General Comments

Andy NI4S thanked everyone for a fun 2 years as President of the club. The group responded with their thanks and applause.

Gary KN4AQ took a photograph of those in attendance for the last Board meeting of 2005.

Dick KD4ISC advised a sympathy card had been sent to the family of Ed Stephenson, AB4S, on behalf of the club.

Hank K4HM reminded everyone to make notes of their job duties and activities so that their predecessors will have a good guideline to follow.

Dick W8HYD announced the birth of his tower in his yard. There was much rejoicing. He then thanked everyone for their help during his service as Vice President.

Denyse K4DAW asked the club to consider more opportunities for kids to participate in Field Day.

Chuck K4HF asked Bernard W4BRB if there has been a critique of the Red Cross Fair activities. Bernard advised this type of meeting usually occurs after the new year and that the general comments he has received so far concerning ham radio's participation were positive. Chuck then asked members to consider ways to compensate Greg KE4PAX for the big effort it is going to take to deal with the equipment donations discussed earlier in the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Submitted by Dick Orander, KD4ISC, Secretary

Minutes of the RARS Board of Directors Meeting for January 2006

The Board of Directors meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on January 17, 2006 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

Attendance: Board – Dick Bitner, W8HYD, Hank Montgomery, K4HM, Selene Montgomery, KG4RMT, Jon Kerfoot, KG4ZVT, Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, Mary Holtschneider, KG4OQA, Gary Pearce, KN4AQ and Dick Orander, KD4ISC. Others – Mary Jo Littlewood, K4MJL.

President Dick Bitner, W8HYD, called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

On a motion from Hank K4HM and second by Gary KN4AQ, the November 2005 Board meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Officers' Reports

Dick W8HYD read the Treasurer's report.

- There are currently 264 RARS members.

Selene KG4RMT provided the Vice President's report.

- The February general meeting program will be on emergency preparedness and will be presented by Johnnie Mayfield, WA9SZL.
- The total amount of money collected for the ARRL Toy Drive was \$534.

Committee Reports

Education – Dick W8HYD reported that a 'weekend warrior' version of the technician class is in the works. This class will be held at Cisco and further details will be announced when available. The club needs to form a roster of instructors who are willing to help teach radio classes and the opening for the education director still needs to be filled.

Exciter – Denyse Walter, K4DAW, has resigned her position as Exciter editor for personal reasons. An announcement concerning the opening needs to be made at the general meeting and a replacement found as soon as possible.

Membership – Denyse K4DAW has also resigned this position as well. Mary Jo K4JML offered to take on the membership duties at the general meetings. Selene KG4RMT will assist as needed.

FM – Gary KN4AQ reported that the club's 220 MHz repeater frequency has been relinquished at the request of the SERA repeater coordinator. This frequency has been inactive for a long time.

Nets – Mary KG4OQA advised that a Tuesday night net control station will be needed since Denyse K4DAW has resigned that duty. She will fill in on Tuesdays until a replacement can be found.

Minutes of the RARS Board of Directors Meeting for January 2006 (continued)

Webmaster – Jon KG4ZVT reported that updates are being made to the club's web page as needed. Hamfest information has been included in the updates and the site is ready for ticket sales whenever the tickets become available. Jon also advised that he may be leaving the area for a new job and a new webmaster may be needed in the near future.

Hamfest – Hank K4HM advised that Jim Walter, K4FIJ has resigned his position as the Admissions Chairperson for personal reasons. Charlie Swindell, WB4DCM, has stepped in to fill this position. The next hamfest meeting will be on January 23. Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, will be our guest from the ARRL. A new printer will be used to produce the hamfest flyers which will save the club money. The dealer KJI Radio has advised they will be back at this year's fest.

Public Service – Dick KD4ISC reported that he has been contacted for help with the Eastern Regional Odyssey of the Mind Tournament. This year's event will be held on March 4 at Chapel Hill High School. Dick has contacted a member of OCRA to see if they would be interested in coordinating this event.

ARRL Liaison – Chuck K4HF reported slow activities with the FCC. There's been a new docket issued for the revised bandwidth proposal.

Unfinished Business

Greg Seamster, KE4PAX, has been inventorying and storing the equipment donated to the club by Mike Hollingsworth. There will probably be one more shipment of material to receive.

The members discussed the need to find a public service coordinator for the club. Dick KD4ISC will continue to assist with public service requests until a permanent coordinator can be found.

New Business

Jim Walter K4FIJ has resigned his At-Large Board of Directors position for personal reasons.

An awards committee needs to be formed in preparation for the March Birthday meeting.

Dick KD4ISC noted that Steve Jenkins, KA8HXX, had made a request during the general meeting for miscellaneous funds to be used for the Powell Elementary School station. After a brief discussion, Chuck K4HF made a motion to donate \$200 to the Powell Elementary Club station to be used for general expenses. Hank K4HM provided a second and the vote carried in favor of the motion.

General Comments

Hank requested help with the hamfest co-chair position. Denyse's (K4DAW) resignation from this position leaves it open and the help of a co-chair is needed.

Selene KG4RMT asked that we take the steps necessary to update the board member mailing list. She also asked for suggestions for future club meeting programs.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Submitted by Dick Orander, KD4ISC, Secretary

Minutes of the RARS Board of Directors Meeting for February 2006

The Board of Directors meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on February 21, 2006 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

Attendance: Board – Dick Bitner, W8HYD, Hank Montgomery, K4HM, Selene Montgomery, KG4RMT, Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, Mary Jo Littlewood, K4MJL, Gary Pearce, KN4AQ and Dick Orander, KD4ISC. Others – Rod Thomson, KI4LSN and Henry Heller, WB2AGA.

President Dick Bitner, W8HYD, called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

On a motion from Gary KN4AQ and second by Selene KG4RMT, the January 2006 Board meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Officers' Reports

Dick W8HYD read the Treasurer's report. There are currently 269 RARS members.

Minutes of the RARS Board of Directors Meeting for February 2006 (continued)

Selene KG4RMT provided the Vice President's report.

- The March program will be provided by KN4AQ on "Regulation by Bandwidth." March will also be the club's birthday party with cake, ice cream and refreshments.
- Programs for the next several meetings are falling into place. Field Day and Intermediate Skywarn Spotter training are scheduled as future topics.

Committee Reports

Education – Chuck K4HF reported that Virginia Enzor NC4VA has contact information for the Cisco facility and has offered to assist with acquiring dates/times to hold classes there.

Exciter – Dick W8HYD has put together this month's Exciter. The file has been passed off to Greg Seamster KE4PAX to put the finishing touches on it and prepare it for printing and mailing. There have been two people express interest in being contributing editors to the Exciter. The general thought is that an editor is needed to oversee the newsletter and is helped by several contributing editors. Joe Squashic, W4TTO and Mike Murphy WA4BPJ have offered to help.

Membership – Mary Jo K4MJL advised all is going well.

Webmaster – Dick W8HYD reported that Steve Worley, KB4HDQ has taken over webmaster duties.

Hamfest – Hank K4HM advised Larry Wiandt, N4LEW, has stepped forward as the new hamfest co-chair. The RARSfest flyers have been printed and are available. Online ticket ordering is also available via the club's webpage. Hank described the ideas of a foxhunt and special event station at the hamfest. The next RARSfest meeting will be held on February 27 at Chuck's (K4HF) house.

Public Service – Dick KD4ISC reported the Odyssey of the Mind Tournament will be held on Saturday, March 4. The OCRA and DFMA clubs have been contacted for help and there are still plenty of volunteer openings to fill. The MS Walk will take place on April 1 out at RTP. Dick has been contacted and asked for help with the Summer Special Olympics events that will be taking place in Raleigh on June 2 - 4. Six hams are needed each day as well as a coordinator for this event.

ARRL Liaison – Chuck K4HF reported there's been talk on re-farming amateur radio frequencies to correlate with the number of hams and license classes. There has been no news on the change in CW requirements.

Unfinished Business

Selene KG4RMT advised she would check in with the church to review the schedule and location of our meeting room.

New Business

Henry Heller, WB2AGA addressed the group. He is a CERT leader for Raleigh and came to ask if RARS would consider being a supporting repeater group. In this role, RARS would allow CERT to use the club's repeaters for emergency traffic and as a means to check in during meeting times. The members were agreeable to this idea. Henry was advised that 146.64 is a backup frequency for ARES and that they would have priority. There are also several evening nets which occur on this repeater during non-emergency times. It was suggested that 145.13 be used as the CERT frequency for meeting communications and for emergencies (noting that this repeater has no backup power). 146.64 could be used if it does not conflict with ARES. The Board was in agreement to allow the use of the repeaters as discussed.

General Comments

Hank advised RARSfest tickets are available for purchase.

Chuck K4HF reported there will be a sale of items from the estate of John Swain, W4JPS on Saturday, February 25 from 9am until 2pm. Chuck also advised that John Covington, W4CC, will be at the March meeting to make several presentations during the awards ceremony.

Dick W8HYD advised members to start thinking about finances, Field Day and Spring activities for our future meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Submitted by Dick Orander, KD4ISC, Secretary

Minutes of the RARS General Meeting for February 2006

The general meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on February 7, 2006 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

President Dick Bitner, W8HYD, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

The following visitors were recognized and welcomed to the meeting: John Snellen WD4FBG, Jim Buday, Matt Woodworth, Ernest Miles and Jim Fore WD8MZR.

Dick W8HYD made the following announcements:

- The March Exciter will be late. The club is in need of a new Exciter editor and anyone interested in the job should contact him or any member of the board.
- A new webmaster will be needed for the club. The current webmaster, Jon Kerfoot KG4ZVT, has accepted an out-of-state job and will be leaving RARS. Dick thanked him for his service and asked anyone interested in taking over the web duties to contact him or any board member.
- The RARS dinner will be held on the second Tuesday of the month at the Golden Corral on Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh. People begin gathering at 6:30 pm and all are invited to attend.
- The Richmond Frost-fest will be held on Sunday, February 19.
- The JARS annual auction will be held on February 16 at the Panther Branch Community Center. Additional information can be found at www.jars.net.
- Tonight's Central Carolina Skywarn Net will feature Jeff Orrock. He will discuss the enhanced Fujita scale.

Dick Orander KD4ISC made the following public service announcements:

- The 2006 Eastern Regional Odyssey of the Mind Tournament will be held on March 4 at Chapel Hill High School and Middle School. Hams are needed for communications support for this event. Help is expected from the Orange County Radio Amateur group but additional help will be needed. Anyone interested in participating should contact Dick KD4ISC.
- There will be an MS Walk at RTP on April 1. RARS has been contacted and asked to provide communications support. Anyone interested in helping or coordinating hams for this event should contact Dick KD4ISC.
- The 2006 MS 150 Bike event will be held in New Bern again this year on September 9 and 10. Those wanting to participate in supporting this event should consider making room reservations now. A list of accommodations can be found on the Eastern North Carolina MS webpage.

Hank Montgomery K4HM provided an update on the April 23 RARSfest. The fest will focus on a "new ham" theme. ARRL guest, Norm Fusaro W3IZ, will provide programs for new hams. There will also be a panel for questions and answers. Plenty of workers are needed to make RARSfest successful. The RARS webpage now has a link to sign up and volunteer. A foxhunt will also be a part of this year's activities.

Dick W8HYD read the Treasurer's report. There are 266 members of RARS.

Steve Jenkins KA8HXX provided an update on the Powell Elementary School radio classes and station. The students are starting their third quarter and there are 13 youngsters participating in radio classes. Next week is the School Club Roundup. Most of the radio operating will take place during school hours (9:30 – 3:30). Powell's club callsign is KI4LPW. Contacts will be focused on 20 and 40 meters with some 2 meter simplex contacts. Everyone is urged to make contacts with any students heard during the week long event.

David Crawford KF4VXJ provided some general comments on emergency preparedness.

Selene Montgomery KG4RMT introduced Johnnie Mayfield WA9SZL who presented the evening program on "Emergency Preparedness and the Radio Amateur."

Door Prizes were won by Tim Buehlmann W4TIM and Hank Montgomery K4HM.

Attendance - 53

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Dick Orander, KD4ISC

RARS Secretary

Minutes of the RARS General Meeting for March 2006

The general meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on March 7, 2006 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail. Members gathered and enjoyed RARS birthday cake, ice cream and refreshments prior to the official start of the meeting.

President Dick Bitner, W8HYD, called the meeting to order at 7: 38 pm.

The following visitors were recognized and welcomed to the meeting: ARRL Section Manager John Covington W4CC, Dan Reece KI4KUK, Frank Lynch W4FAL, Kirk Kirkendall KI4NQX, Diane McHugh (soon to be licensed) and Nadia Scharlau.

Virginia Enzore NC4VA made the following announcements:

- Central Carolina Skywarn nets are held weekly on Tuesdays on the 146.88 repeater at 9:15pm. Tonight's net will be conducted by Bob Woodson WX4MMM and the topic will be about home weather stations.
- The March 14 net will be on the severe weather climatology for the Raleigh weather forecast office county warning area and will be presented by Brandon Locklear of the National Weather Service. The week of March 14 is severe weather awareness week.
- The March 21 net will occur during flood awareness and safety week. The guest speaker will be Kristen Smith who survived the flooding of hurricane Floyd.
- The April 4 and 11 nets will be basic Skywarn spotter training.
- The Skywarn spotter dinner will be held on March 23 at 6:30 pm at the Golden Corral on Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh. Jeff Orrock will speak on tornadoes. All are invited to attend.

Dick W8HYD reported that progress is being made with plans for ham radio classes. With help from Virginia NC4VA, classroom space is being secured at the Cisco campus at RTP. Dates and times of classes will be announced as soon as plans are finalized.

Charles Scharlu NZ0I provided a brief presentation on the Sixth USA ARDF Championships that will be held at Umstead Park on April 7-9. Those interested in participating or volunteering to help with the event should contact Charles.

Greg Seamster KE4PAX provided the Treasurer's report. There are 273 + a few new members of RARS. Recent expenditures include RARSfest expenses and a donation to the Powell Elementary School ham radio station.

The floor was given to the following presenters in celebration of RARS' birthday and to recognize those involved with the club and with amateur radio activities.

John Covington W4CC presented plaques to Gary Pearce KN4AQ, Frank Lynch W4FAL and Tom Brown N4TAB for their work with the Progress Energy BPL trials in our area. John then presented plaques to Andy Peterson NI4S and Dick Bitner W8HYD for their service as president and vice president of RARS.

Chuck Littlewood K4HF presented a certificate to John Covington W4CC for his years of service as our ARRL Section Manager. Gary Pearce KN4AQ was presented with a certificate recognizing his three years of service as the SERA Journal editor.

Andy Peterson NI4S announced the following 2005 DX Challenge winners: Ron Ford W4RJF winner of the Big Gun category; Chuck Littlewood K4HF winner of the Little Pistol category and Bob Conder K4RLC winner of the Limited (all CW) category.

Dick Bitner W8HYD presented certificates to the following individuals:

- Greg Seamster KE4PAX for serving as RARS and RARSfest Treasurer
- Denyse Walter K4DAW for serving as Exciter editor, membership chairperson and Skywarn EC
- Jim Walter K4FIJ for service as an at-large director and hamfest admissions chairperson
- Selene Montgomery KG4RMT for serving as an at-large director
- Tim Nicholson W4NOT for webmaster duties
- Cliff Broughton AG4XR for years of serving as RARS auctioneer
- Steve Jenkins KA8HXX for his work with the Powell Elementary School students and ham station
- Randy Bittle KE4PNT for serving as a net control station
- Bernard Blackmon W4BRB for RARSfest setup duties
- Tom Brown N4TAB for ARES service
- John Guerriero KG4HDT for ARES service

Minutes of the RARS General Meeting for March 2006 (continued)

- Virginia Enzor NC4VA for ARES service and Skywarn EC duties
- David Crawford KF4VXJ for ARES service
- Mark Gibson N4MQU for ARES service
- Ken Slough K7UGT for ARES service
- Al Nickle KE4IHX for public service participation
- Ken Edwards N4ZBB for organizing the Thursday ham lunches
- Dave Thomas K4SAN for RARSfest cleanup duties
- Jay Langley N5UTR for assistance with printing the Exciter and RARSfest items
- Mary Holtschneider KG4OQA for service as net manager
- Bob Conder K4RLC for ARES service
- Ron Ford W4RJF for coordinating hams for the Autism Ribbon Run
- Bruce Arnold N8UTY for coordinating hams for the MS150

Dick then asked the following groups to stand and be recognized:

- Everyone who had participated in a public service event in 2005
- All of the net control stations
- Everyone who had taught or completed a traffic training class
- The RARS VE team

Dick Orander KD4ISC reported on the ham radio support provided at the Eastern Region Odyssey of the Mind tournament. He thanked AI4KR, KA9QJT, KE4IHX, KE4HIH, KE4QOZ, KG4SWI, KI4LSN, KN4AQ, W1REP and WV5I for their help with this event. He then announced that hams were still needed for the April 1 MS Walk to be held at RTP. A coordinator is also needed for the Special Olympics Summer Games that will be held on June 2-4. Those interested in volunteering should contact Dick at kd4isc@arrl.net.

Chip Mack WB4ZVR reminded the group of this year's field day activities. The event will be held on June 24-25. Due to technical difficulties, Chip's field day DVD could not be shown and will be played at a later meeting.

Hank Montgomery K4HM provided volunteer sign-up sheets for this year's RARSfest. Our hamfest will be held on April 23 and there are plenty of volunteer positions to fill. Members are urged to pass the word about the fest and admission tickets are available for purchase.

Gary Pearce KN4AQ provided a presentation on "Bandwidth by Regulation."

Door Prizes were won by Larry KG4FIQ, Alan AB4OZ and Meme KE4NGM.

Attendance - 52

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Dick Orander, KD4ISC

RARS Secretary

Thanks For Your Patience with the Exciter

Well here we have it, another Exciter without an Editor. Several people have expressed an interest in supporting the Exciter, and hopefully we will soon have an Editor or team of people to generate the monthly Exciter.

Public Service - We have indicated needs for volunteers for RARSFest 2006, as well as volunteers to generate the monthly Exciter. We should also highlight the need for volunteers to support Public Service events. We are at the start of a busy Public Service season and need volunteers. Event information is available on the RARS website. Please contact Dick Orander, KD4ISC, Acting Public Service Director to volunteer.